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EXAMINER

VAN HANDEL, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/28/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to an Amendment filed 12/28/2006. Claims 1-10 are pending. Claim 1 is amended.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments regarding claim 1, filed 12/28/2006, have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 1, the applicant argues that the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. fails to teach that the message corresponding to the acquired information is displayed also in the case where service is provided, the selected channel has not been contracted for and the video does not come on the area where the received video is reduced and displayed. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Alexander et al. discloses displaying an electronic program guide (EPG) with a real time television program displayed in a picture-in-picture (PIP) window

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12. A translucent overlay of the PIP window 12 can display the title, channel and status of window 12 over the television program, so the viewer can still see the entire image (col. 3, l. 56-62 & col. 15, l. 9-11). Alexander et al. further discloses the use of a plurality of tuners and a user-interface for changing the channels tuned by the tuners (col. 14, l. 34-41 & col. 31, l. 12-22). The examiner interprets such functionality as providing service during the display of the title, channel and status messages. Alexander et al. does not disclose displaying a message corresponding to the acquired information in a case where the selected channel has not been contracted for and the video does not come on the area where the received video is reduced and displayed. Tessier et al. discloses a system for substituting a message in place of a scrambled video signal incoming from a cable or other primary video signal source (col. 2, l. 66-68 & col. 3, l. 1-3). When an undecoded pay TV signal is tuned, the system switches to a locally generated message for display in place of the undecoded pay TV signal (col. 6, l. 17-29). The examiner interprets an undecoded pay TV signal as a TV signal that has not been contracted for. The examiner further notes that the input line 1 of Tessier et al. carries composite video input signals received from a single tuner in a CATV converter (col. 2, l. 32-35). As such, the examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify one or more of the tuner outputs of Alexander et al. to include a switching system for displaying a message in place of an undecoded pay TV signal, such as that taught by Tessier et al. in order to replace a scrambled signal that has objectionable amounts of jitter (col. 1, l. 23-40).

Claim Objections

1. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Referring to claim 5, the examiner notes that the phrase "the viewing age limit" lacks antecedent basis. The examiner fails to find any recitation of a viewing age limit previously in the claim or in claim 1, from which it depends.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. in view of Tessier et al.

Referring to claim 1, Alexander et al. discloses a digital broadcasting receiver, comprising:

- electronic program guide display means for displaying program information on a screen utilizing an on-screen display circuit on the basis of service information included in digital broadcasting (col. 3, l. 4-5, 52-62; col. 5, l. 28-37; col. 8, l. 32-35; & Fig. 1);
- received video display means for reducing received video and displaying the video, together with said program information (col. 3, l. 56-62 & Fig. 1);
- information acquisition means for acquiring information related to a selected channel (col. 3, l. 59-62 & col. 8, l. 18-35); and

- message display means for creating a message corresponding to the acquired information and displaying the message in an area where the received video is reduced and displayed, wherein the message corresponding to the acquired information is displayed also in a case where service is provided (col. 3, l. 55-62 & col. 31, l. 12-22).

Alexander et al. further discloses the use of a plurality of tuners for receiving a plurality of television signals simultaneously (col. 14, l. 34-41 & col. 31, l. 12-22). Alexander et al. does not disclose displaying a message when the selected channel has not been contracted for and the video does not come on the area where the received video is reduced and displayed. Tessier et al. discloses a system for substituting a message in place of a scrambled video signal tuned from a cable or other primary video signal source (col. 2, l. 32-35, 66-68; & col. 3, l. 1-3). When an undecoded pay TV signal (channel that has not been contracted for) is tuned, the system switches to a locally generated message for display in place of the undecoded pay TV signal (col. 6, l. 17-29). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify one or more of the tuner outputs of Alexander et al. to include a switching system for displaying a message in place of an undecoded pay TV signal, such as that taught by Tessier et al. in order to replace a scrambled signal that has objectionable amounts of jitter (Tessier et al. col. 1, l. 23-40).

Referring to claim 5, the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claim 1, wherein said information acquisition means acquires information indicating whether or not the selected channel corresponds to a viewing age limit (Alexander et al. col. 17, l. 13-36).

Referring to claims 6 and 10, the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claims 1 and 5, respectively, wherein said message display means displays a message in a semitransparent state in an area where said received video is reduced and displayed (Alexander et al. col. 3, l. 58-62).

3. Claims 2, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. in view of Tessier et al. and further in view of Breslauer et al.

Referring to claim 2, the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claim 1. The combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. does not teach that the information acquisition means acquires contract information related to a selected channel. Breslauer et al. discloses that a conditional access provider may provide a HTML format document that indicates terms of a contract that need to be accepted before access to a pay-per-view channel will be granted (col. 10, l. 26-28, 38-50). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. to include a HTML format document indicating terms of a contract that need to be accepted before access to a pay-per-view channel will be granted such as that taught by Breslauer et al. in order to allow the viewer the convenience of perusing and accepting a contract from their home.

Referring to claim 7, the combination of Alexander et al., Tessier et al., and Breslauer et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claim 2, wherein said message display means displays a message in a semitransparent state in an area where said received video is reduced and displayed (Alexander et al. col. 3, l. 4-5, 57-62 & Fig. 1).

4. Claims 3, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. in view of Tessier et al. and further in view of Dunn et al.

Referring to claim 3, the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claim 1. The combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. does not teach that the information acquisition means acquires preview information related to the selected channel. Dunn et al. discloses a preview browse UI of a VOD application 74 (Fig. 3). The preview browse UI facilitates the display of preview video trailers on the TV, which correspond to these programs. The UI further enables the viewer to “surf” through the various trailers at his/her own pace, and rent a program for immediate viewing (information acquisition means acquires preview information related to the selected channel)(col. 5, l. 1-15). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. to include a preview browse UI such as that taught by Dunn et al. in order to allow the viewer to preview channels before purchasing them.

Referring to claim 8, the combination of Alexander et al., Tessier et al., and Dunn et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claim 1, wherein said message display means displays a message in a semitransparent state in an area where said video is reduced and displayed (Alexander et al. col. 3, l. 4-5, 57-62 & Fig. 1).

5. Claims 4, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. in view of Tessier et al. and further in view of Kohno et al.

Referring to claim 4, the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claim 1. The combination of Alexander et al. and

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Tessier et al. does not teach that the information acquisition means acquires information indicating whether or not the selected channel is a radio program. Kohno et al. discloses an (on-air program guide) PP with a channel selecting section 83 that displays buttons for determining a channel selected at a program title displaying section 82 (col. 8, l. 20-22 & Fig. 6). Television channel determining button 83A has buttons capable of selecting a radio channel (col. 8, l. 25). When the radio channel button 83R is selected by the cursor K, the programs having no image but having audio signals are displayed at the program title displaying section 82 in the order of the channels (col. 9, l. 66-67; col. 10, l. 1-2; & Fig. 9). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of Alexander et al. and Tessier et al. to include a radio channel button such as that taught by Kohno et al. in order to present the viewer with information indicating whether a given channel is a television or radio program.

Referring to claim 9, the combination of Alexander et al., Tessier et al., and Kohno et al. teaches the digital broadcasting receiver according to claim 1, wherein said message display means displays a message in a semitransparent state in an area where said received video is reduced and displayed (col. 3, l. 4-5, 57-62 & Fig. 1).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Van Handel whose telephone number is 571-272-5968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:30pm Mon.-Fri..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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MVH


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PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER